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COCHIN
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.)

Vol. IV — 1112.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday,

1st April, 1937.
19th Meenam, 1112.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K. C. I. E.) in the Chair.

Messrs. C. P. Lonappan, K. T. Mathew, R. Viswanathan Chettiar, H. J. Walmesly, and Mrs. Meenakshi N. Menon were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Retrenchment Committee—particulars regarding.

276. Mr. A. Narayana Menon *(Vyttila).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have constituted a Retrenchment Committee; what is its programme of work;

(b) whether copies of the report of the Committee will be supplied to the Members of the Council before the commencement of the Budget Session of this year?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—(a) Yes. Vide Government Proceedings dated 13th February 1937, F-2-11532 of 1112 published in the Cochin

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Government Gazette dated 2nd Kumbham 1112 (13th February 1937).

(b) Will be considered after receipt of the report.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon (*Vyttila*).—Will the Members be allowed to visit offices to study the nature of the work of the staff so that they may recommend retrenchments, if any, in the staffs of the various offices?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—As the Proceedings now stand and according to the terms of reference the members have got the power to examine departmental heads. The proceedings does not specifically say that they can inspect any particular office. The suggestion of the Hon'ble Member will be considered.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—Do the Government propose to take evidence from the non-official representatives in the matter of retrenchments?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—Only departmental heads will be examined. It is not the intention that non-officials should be examined.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*).—Will not they be able to give valuable suggestions in the matter?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Joint Secretary to Government*.—Practically the committee is a committee of non-official members. There are only two Government members and all the rest are non-officials. There is no objection to these non-officials getting into touch with others and obtaining the necessary information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*).—Was not, Sir, this committee for retrenchment constituted on the strength of the resolution passed by this House which was moved by the Hon'ble Member, Mr. C. R. Iyyunni?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—There was a representation in this Council but I do not think it was based on the resolution passed in this Council that the committee was appointed.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar (*Secretary to Government*).—The resolution was moved by the Hon'ble Member and after Government explained their position the portion relating to the retrenchment committee was deleted.

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Am I to take it that the committee was formed not in virtue of the passing of this resolution?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—The position has already been explained.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Was not the appointment of the committee made on account of the resolution passed in this Council?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—There was a resolution; but the latter portion which contained the proposal to have a retrenchment committee appointed was not pressed.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Was not that resolution moved by Mr. C. R. Iyyunni?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—I am not quite sure.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Our difficulty is why the Hon'ble Member was not included in the Committee? The Proceedings arose out of the resolution which was moved by the Hon'ble Member.

Mr. President.—Even assuming that the resolution was accepted by the Government and that the appointment of the retrenchment committee was specifically the out-come of the resolution moved and passed in this Council, Government do not think that the mover of the resolution must be a member of the Committee.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur)*—Not as an absolute rule; but as a matter of courtesy would it not be better in the fitness of things?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Was it not the uniform practice ever since the existence of this Council to include the mover of the resolution in the committee that was constituted in persuance of or at the suggestion contained in that resolution?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Joint Secretary to Government).*—Does the Hon'ble Member refer to select committees?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Select Committees, official committees, non-official committees and Government committees where the suggestion came by means of a resolution or at the request of the Council.

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Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—It will be clear that the question of appointing the retrenchment committee was not pressed during the latter part of the discussion on the resolution. I shall read the portion relating to it.

"**Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar** (*Secretary to Government*).—Let us not mix up issues. They stand on a different footing. So the resolution comes to this. 'This Council recommends to the Government to effect retrenchments wherever possible in the various departments of administration in the State'. Government accept it because that is what they are already doing.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur North*).—സർ, ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനതത്വം ഗവണ്മെണ്ടുപക്ഷത്തു നിന്നു സമ്മതിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയം താഴെ വരുന്ന വിധത്തിൽ മാറ്റുവാനായിട്ട് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

"This Council recommends to the Government to effect retrenchments in the various departments of administration in the State wherever possible".

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Urakam*).—My question is whether it has not been the uniform practice of this Council for the Government to include the mover of a resolution in the committee at whose instance the committee was constituted?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—There was no motion here for the appointment of any committee so that that question does not arise.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—I suppose the committee was appointed at the suggestion contained in that resolution?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—The Secretary to Government just now explained that the words with reference to the appointment of a committee were withdrawn from the resolution. Government, however, thought that it would be better that a committee should enquire before anything was actually done.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—But the committee was formed to give effect to the request contained in the resolution.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Joint Secretary to Government*).—Even that does not follow. But from the discussion it will be clear that the Government was prepared to do whatever that was possible to effect retrenchments even without the appointment of a committee.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—If that is the position where is the necessity of the committee?

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—May I know, Sir, whether the resolution that was passed had anything to do with the constitution of the committee that followed?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—It had not. The appointment of the committee had nothing to do with the resolution that was passed in this House.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—Are we to understand that the committee was constituted independent of the resolution?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—Quite so; in pursuance of a policy of Government to give effect to the principle which was accepted by Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—May I know whether the appointment of the committee was in contemplation even before the resolution was passed in this House?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—I cannot say it was not.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—Can you say it was?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—I have already said what I have to say.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—May I know what principle the Government followed in the choice of the members of the committee?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—There is no definite principle that could be enunciated; some kind of representative selection.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—Representation of what?

Mr. President.—What the Government had in mind at the time of consideration of the question of appointment of members was to select such persons, who, in their opinion, could be depended upon to give the best advice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—That was not what the Secretary said.

Mr. President.—I correct it.

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Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar *(Trichur North)*.—In the matter of taking evidence, do retired officials come under the category of officials or non-officials?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government)*:—Only departmental heads come under the category of officials.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar *(Trichur North)*.—Don't you think that retired officials will be able to give valuable suggestions?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—In coming to an opinion that such and such members are fit for this work were they guided by any principles?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government)*.—I have nothing more to add, to what has been stated by the President.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—May I know whether that opinion is arbitrary or whether it was based on any consideration of public interest?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government)*.—Government are always actuated by considerations of public interest only.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—If it is not arbitrary, may I know, on what grounds were these opinions based?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government)*.—Upon many grounds which "Government considered sound and proper.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—May I know what they are?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government)*.—I have already stated what I have to say.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur)*.—Is it not rather significant, Sir, that all the sections of this House that have taken a part in this clamour for retrenchment have been purposely excluded from the personnel of this committee?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Joint Secretary to Government)*.—It is not a fact. In fact members who have taken an active part are members of the Committee, for instance, Mr. K. Ayyappan and others.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Anthikad)*.—May I know when did the wisdom dawn upon the Government to appoint the committee?

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